

**Whereas**, from time to time the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in order to recognize the achievements of an outstanding Missourian who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the law enforcement profession; and

**Whereas**, Ron Doerge of Racine, Missouri, will retire from his position as Newton County Sheriff on December 31, 2004, following twenty-six years of dedicated service to Newton County; and

**Whereas**, formerly a Reserve Deputy, Field Deputy, and Chief Deputy, Sheriff Doerge has distinguished himself as the first four-term Sheriff in Newton, giving him the distinction of being the longest serving law enforcement officer in Newton County history; and

**Whereas**, recognized and accredited for his accomplishments in the modernization of the Newton County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Doerge established the Investigations Unit, the Narcotics Division, and the Crimes Against Children's Unit; proposed the tax initiative that built the Newton County Jail and Sheriff's Department; became the first sheriff in Missouri to install less than lethal weapons in every deputy's car; and started the first Neighborhood Watch Programs in Newton County; and

**Whereas**, Sheriff Doerge, a graduate of the Police Academy at Missouri Southern State College, was appointed in 1996 by John Ashcroft to testify on law enforcement issues before the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C.; and

**Whereas**, the past recipient of the American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the state of Missouri, Sheriff Doerge has served on many boards, including the Economic Security of Southwest Missouri, the Missouri Southern State University Advisory Board, the founding board of the Children's Center where he was the longest serving member, and the Four County Southwest Missouri Drug Task Force, of which he founded and has Chaired since its conception; and

**Whereas**, Sheriff Doerge has been blessed with the love and support of a wonderful family whose members include his wife, Linda; one daughter, Shelly Blotter; and two grandchildren, Paige and Garrett Blotter:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously with the citizens of Newton County in extending our most hearty congratulations to Sheriff Doerge as he retires from the Newton County Sheriff's Department, and in further wishing him the long, enjoyable, and fruitful retirement he so richly deserves; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Sheriff Ron Doerge, as a measure of our esteem for him.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Kevin Wilson  
District No. 130

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Representative Marilyn Ruestman  
District No. 131

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Representative Ronald F. Richard  
District No. 129

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_, adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker